

In the Claims

Prior to examination, please cancel original claims 1-17 without prejudice and add new claims 18-33 as shown on the attached sheets.

In the Claims

Claims 1-17 (Cancelled)

18. (New) An electrical connecting apparatus, comprising:

a first device including a first housing which partially surrounds a plurality of first electrical contact elements, and

a second device including a second housing which partially surrounds a plurality of second electrical contact elements, said first device and said second device being detachably mateable to one another to make electrical contact between said first electrical contact elements and corresponding ones of said second electrical contact elements when said first device and said second device are mated to one another,

said first device further including a pressing body and a holding body, said holding body having a plurality of holding slots, each of said first electrical contact elements being mounted within a corresponding one of said holding slots, said pressing body being located between said first housing and said first electrical contact elements, at least one of said pressing body and said holding body being sufficiently elastic to permit said first electrical contact elements to be displaced relative to said first housing in at least (i) a first direction, away from the corresponding one of said second electrical contact elements, when said first device and said second device are mated to one another, and (ii) a second direction, toward the corresponding one of said second electrical contact elements, when said first device and said second device are detached from one another.

19. (New) The electrical connecting apparatus as claimed in claim 18, further comprising an elastic sealing element at least a portion of which is located between said first electrical contact elements and said holding body.
20. (New) The electrical connecting apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein said sealing element is molded into said holding body.
21. (New) The electrical connecting apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein the sealing element is molded into said holding body by injection-molding.
22. (New) The electrical connecting apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein said first electrical contact elements are mounted in said holding slots such that lateral play is present between said first electrical contact elements and said holding slots.
23. (New) The electrical connecting apparatus as claimed in claim 18 wherein said first electrical contact elements can be displaced approximately 0.1 to 0.5 millimeter in said second direction.
24. (New) The electrical connecting apparatus as claimed in claim 18 wherein said holding body comprises a lower part of said first housing, and said pressing body is disposed within an upper part of said first housing.
25. (New) The electrical connecting apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein said upper part of said first housing at least partially laterally surrounds said lower part.

26. (New) The electrical connecting apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein said upper part of said first housing has at least approximately a U-shaped cross section and said lower part of said first housing is held between two U-legs of said lower part of said first housing.
27. (New) The electrical connecting apparatus as claimed in claim 24, further comprising at least one spacer located between said pressing body and said upper part of said first housing.
28. (New) The electrical connecting apparatus as claimed in claims 18 wherein said pressing body is provided, on a side thereof facing said first electrical contact elements, with mutually spaced cutouts, grooves, channels or slots located between said first electrical contact elements.
29. (New) The electrical connecting apparatus as claimed in claims 18 wherein said pressing body is provided with said cutouts, grooves, channels or slots on a side thereof facing away from said first electrical contact elements.
30. (New) The electrical connecting apparatus as claimed in claim 18 wherein an interior part of said first housing which faces said pressing body includes a plurality of mutually spaced cutouts, grooves, channels or slots.
31. (New) The electrical connecting apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein said holding body is formed of a plastic material.

32. (New) The electrical connecting apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein said pressing body comprises of a silicone pressure pad.
33. (New) The electrical connecting apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein said holding slots are provided with stops which engage said first electrical contact elements to limit displacement of said first electrical contact elements in said second direction.